

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-14 ISO-00 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12
NEA-10 OIC-02 EPAE-00 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00
SOE-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 INR-10 L-03 NSF-02
NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-05 USIA-15 SS-15 SP-02 DOE-11
INT-05 /171 W

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R 101410Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5809

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS NAIROBI 3805

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SENV, UNEP

SUBJ: INAUGURAL MEETING OF CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON DESERTIFICATION
CONTROL (DESCON)

REF NAIROBI 3243

1. AT MARCH 8 MEETING OF "DONOR COUNTRIES", ATTENDED BY
MOST WEOS AND USSR, THACHER DISTRIBUTED REVISED (ONLY IN
FORM, NOT IN SUBSTANCE) DRAFT OF INVITATION TO DESCON
WHICH WILL BE SENT TO GOVERNMENTS EARLY NEXT WEEK.

2. THACHER LED GROUP THROUGH INVITATION LETTER, EMPHASIZING
THAT DESCON NOT RPT NOT A NEW FUND OR SPECIAL ACCOUNT,
NOR WOULD ITS "DECISIONS" BE BINDING ON ANYONE. INDIVIDUAL
COUNTRIES AND MULTI-LATERAL AGENCIES WOULD STILL BE RESPONSIBLE
FOR DETERMINING WHERE AND HOW THEY WERE TO GIVE ASSISTANCE,
IN CONSULTATION WITH RECIPIENT COUNTRIES. DESCON WOULD RATHER
PROVIDE FORUM FOR EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON ACTIVITIES AND
EXAMINATION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITIES. TOLBA HOPES TO PRESENT
ONE OR MORE PROJECT PROPOSALS BASED ON TRANS-NATIONAL STUDIES;
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HE WILL DECIDE WHICH ARE "READY" FOR PRESENTATION.

3. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION FROM AUSTRALIAN AS TO MEANING
OF PHRASE "MOBILIZING ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL RESOURCES"
(PARA 2 REFTEL), THACHER NOTED THAT, FOR EXAMPLE, SOME
ASSISTANCE AGENCIES HAVE FUNDS ALLOCATED ON SECTORAL
BASIS: IF SURPLUS EXISTED IN ONE SECTOR, PERHAPS FUNDS

COULD BE TRANSFERRED TO DESERTIFICATION PROJECT. SWEDEN NOTED THAT THIS WOULD BE PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT FOR THEM; ONCE FUNDS ARE GRANTED IT WOULD BE UP TO RECIPIENT COUNTRY TO RE-CHANNEL THEM. NETHERLANDS FORE- SAW SIMILAR DIFFICULTIES AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT RECIPIENT COUNTRIES WOULD BE BROUGHT FULLY INTO DISCUSSIONS OF PROPOSED PROJECTS AND NOTED THAT SUCH PROJECTS SHOULD ALSO APPEAR ON THEIR PRIORITY LISTS DURING BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH DONORS.

4. AUSTRALIAN REP EXPRESSED FEAR THAT, DESPITE PHRASE "USING EXISTING INSTITUTIONS AND SOURCES OF FUNDS" (PARA 2 REFTEL), IT MIGHT NOT BE CLEAR TO RECIPIENT COUNTRIES THAT IN FACT THERE ARE NOT LIKELY TO BE NEW FUNDS AVAILABLE AND THAT RECIPIENTS MUST REORGANIZE PRIORITIES IF THEY WISH ADDITIONAL RESOURCES DEVOTED TO DESERTIFICATION PROJECTS. WHILE THACHER NOTED THAT TOLBA WELL AWARE OF FUNDING SITUATION AND FELT THAT IT SHOULD BE CLEAR THAT "EXISTING SOURCES" MEANS JUST THAT, HE DID NOT DISPUTE CONTENTION THAT THIS COULD BE PROBLEM.

5. ON RELATED MATTERS, THACHER NOTED THAT MEETING WILL BE HELD IN PARIS NEXT WEEK ON "ADDITIONAL MEASURES." UNEP WILL ALSO USE THAT MEETING TO SOLICIT ASSISTANCE IN PREPARATION OF STUDY OF SPECIAL ACCOUNT CALLED FOR BY PARA 12 OF UNGA RES. 32/172. THACHER STATED THAT UNEP
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HAD BEEN UNDER IMPRESSION THAT UN SECRETARIAT WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT STUDY, BUT HAD JUST BEEN INFORMED THAT IT WAS TO BE A UNEP PROJECT. THE REPORT ON ADDITIONAL MEASURES WILL HOPEFULLY BE READY IN APRIL, SO AS TO BE OF USE TO DESCON MEETING. STUDY OF SPECIAL ACCOUNT WILL BE READY FOR GC VI. A "QUICK, BRIEF REPORT" ON DESCON MEETING WILL BE PREPARED FOR GC VI, AS WELL.
BLANE

NOTE BY OC/T: TELEGRAM DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION

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